

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD
4th Sunday of Easter April 30, 2023

We continue to be mask friendly: it is now a personal decision. Thank you.

Mission Awareness Sunday

Life in Christ involves prayer,
the seeking of God's will and blessing on all of life.
Prayer is openness to the presence of God.

In words, or the absence of words,
prayer is the focusing of our lives towards God.

—*Living Faith* 8.1.4

Praying for and with Presbyterian Church of Canada (PCC) congregations,
committees, agencies, people and partners is one way of engaging in God's
mission in the world and focusing our lives on God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship

Dear God, as our Shepherd, You offer us abundant life.

God, you are with us!

As our Shepherd, You lead us by still waters.

You, restore our souls!

You walk with us through every dark valley.

We will not be afraid!

**God, our Shepherd, we praise You for your goodness and
mercy which are with us every day.**

Leader and People: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together)

God of love,

**we come trusting that Your love has the power to defeat
evil in the world.**

**Jesus shows us that Love defeats even the power of
death. You are with us through the darkest valleys
so that we are not afraid.**

**We worship You with glad hearts,
praising you in the name of our Risen Lord,
praying, with the breath of your Spirit in us.**

**Renew our strength and courage to face whatever each
day holds, so, our lives will bring You honour and glory
now and always. Amen.**

HYMN: # 314 God is love

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

God of love,

**we confess that too often we let the events around us
shatter our trust in Your love.**

**When terror strikes and innocents fall,
we wonder if Love can defeat violence.**

**When truth gets lost among misleading claims,
we wonder if Love can prevail over lies.**

**Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in the power of
Your Love**

That raised Jesus from death's grip. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Minister)

The Apostle Paul asked: What will separate us from the love of
Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No! he declared.
Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us
rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, God's
gracious and forgiving Love will never let us go. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also, with you

- Please turn and greet one another

ANTHEM

STORY:

“Have you filled a bucket today?”



**HYMN: #368 Let Christian faith and hope dispel
Verses 1,5 & 6.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Isaiah 38: 1 -8 (page 510)

Psalms of Hezekiah from Isaiah 38: 9-20

Read responsively. (page 510 in Pew Bible)

New Testament: Acts 12: 1-17 (page 780)

SERMON:

“Prayer can change outcomes”



MOMENT OF MUSIC

OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #79 - Offering brought forward
Your offering can be left on the plates upon entering the service.
Thank you for your gifts and prayers for the mission and outreach
of Knox Stratford.

Prayer of Dedication (Together):

God with a tender heart, we thank You for the care and
compassion You offer to us. Bless the gifts we offer so they
will spread Your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless
our lives so that we may care for Your world as we follow the
example of Jesus day by day. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN: #431 Jesus where'er thy people meet
(Please stay seated)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

HYMN: #390 Spirit Divine, attend our prayers Verses 1,6 &7

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Join us for refreshments following the service.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Supply Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

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